

extinct race of Canada Goose are unknown. A single egg in the collection (B. M. no. 1910. 1. 1. 5848) taken by H. J. Snow on the Kurile Islands, is elliptical, creamy-white, with a slightly rough surface, and measures 87.4 x 55.1 mm.

Oxyura jamaicensis ferruginea (Eyton). In part of its range in Chile the breeding distribution of this duck overlaps that of *Oxyura vittata* (R. A. Philippi) which is present over most of southern South America. The two species are very similar in appearance but *O. j. ferruginea* is the larger of the two. The eggs of *O. vittata* from various parts of its range fall within the limits—length 62–8 mm. breadth 44–9 mm. According to Delacour the eggs of *O. j. ferruginea* are undescribed. An examination of the eggs in the Museum collection revealed that, among eggs which, from their size, were referable to *O. vittata* there were four larger eggs (B. M. no. 1898. 1. 4. 654, 656–7, 660). These measured 72.6 x 54, 73 x 49.9, 71 x 50.8, 70.5 x 50.2 mm. They were typical *Oxyura* eggs, more ovate than elliptical and creamy-white with a finely pitted surface. They had a rather glossier surface than the eggs of *O. vittata*, resembling in this respect the eggs of *O. j. jamaicensis* (Gmelin) in the collection which are still more glossy. It is reasonable to suspect that these are the eggs of *O. j. ferruginea*, but confirmation of this description is still needed.

On the races of *Estrilda nonnula* (Hartlaub)

by H. E. WOLTERS

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When comparing a series of 15 adult specimens of both sexes of *Estrilda nonnula* (Hartlaub), collected by Prof. M. Eisentraut on the Cameroon Mountain in 1957 and 1958, with a series of 29 specimens from various parts of the species' range, most of which were kindly lent by the Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale at Tervuren, it was at once apparent, that Cameroon Mountain birds represent an extremely well differentiated subspecies. Birds from all levels of this mountain are much greyer on the underparts than specimens of any other part of the range and agree with the description of *Estrilda elizae* Alexander, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 13, p. 54 (1903), formerly thought to be restricted to Fernando Po. Four females from other districts of Cameroon (M'balmayo, Mus. Bonn; Bitye, River Ya, Mus. Tervuren) are also darker underneath than females from the more eastern parts of the species' range, but have the underparts much more brownish-grey, not so pure grey as in Cameroon Mountain birds; these females are nearly matched, however, by one male from Nandi (Kenya Colony, Mus. Tervuren) and one unsexed bird from Astrida, Ruanda (Mus. Tervuren).

All other birds of the more eastern parts of the range are much lighter on the underparts, sometimes nearly pure white, although there appears to be a tendency to be tinged with fawn in fresh plumage, especially in birds from Uganda and the Kivu district; two males from Ruwenzori (6,000 and 7,000 ft.) are somewhat greyer than other eastern birds, but by far less so than birds from the Cameroon Mountain. Although I have not seen topotypical material of *Estrilda nonnula nonnula* (*Astrilda nonnula* Hartlaub, *Journ. Orn.*, 31, p. 425: Kudurma), there are no reasons to doubt that Bahr el Ghazal birds agree with other birds of East Africa, and

East African as well as Congo birds may safely all be called *E. n. nonnula*, while I should call Cameroon Mountain birds *E. n. elizae* Alexander like those from Fernando Po; birds from the more southern parts of Cameroon may at present be regarded as intermediates between *E. n. elizae* and *E. n. nonnula*. My Cameroon Mountain birds (all in the Bonn museum; coll. Eisentraut) are from all levels, from near sea-level (Isobi, near Bibundi) up to about 3,000 metres.

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Albinism in Northern Rhodesian birds

by J. M. WINTERBOTTOM

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Benson (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Club.* 81, 1961: 146) in his list of albinistic birds from Northern Rhodesia, has overlooked that of *Euplectes hordeacea* from the Msandile (Winterbottom, *Ibis*, 1938: 276); of *Streptopelia senegalensis* from the Gwembe valley (Winterbottom, *N. Rhod. J.*, 1, 4, 1951: 30); and of *Plocepasser mahali* (Winterbottom, *N. Rhod. J.*, 1, 6, 1952: 39).

A new race of the grebe *Podiceps chilensis* from Lake Junin, Peru

by K. E. L. SIMMONS

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The small ornamented grebe *Podiceps chilensis* Lesson, 1828, of the mainland of South America and Tierra del Fuego, is either treated as a monotypic species (e.g. Wetmore 1926; Peters 1931) or is combined with the closely related *P. rolland* Quoy and Gaimard, 1826, of the Falkland Islands (most modern authors, including Hellmayr and Conover, 1948). For various reasons, I think it preferable, both from the biological and practical point of view, to keep *P. chilensis* distinct from the much larger, isolated *P. rolland*, treating the former as a full species and the latter as a semispecies, the two together forming an incipient or "simple" super-species (Simmons 1962 and unpublished). Whatever the status given to *P. chilensis*, it is invariably treated as a monotypic form, so far as I have been able to ascertain. Recently, however, while engaged in a survey of the Podicipitidae, I concluded that this grebe was polytypic. The present note gives formal taxonomic designation of a new race of *P. chilensis*, leaving consideration of the biological implications of the discovery for treatment elsewhere. The examination of skins was undertaken in the Bird Room of the British Museum (Natural History) by kind permission of the Director. I am indebted to the staff of the Bird Room for facilities.

Part of my work on the Podicipitidae involved making simple standard measurements for interspecific comparisons. Ten specimens (five male and five female if possible) of any one species were selected. While obtaining the first series of values for *P. chilensis*, I found one specimen, a female collected at Lake Junin (Peru) in May 1890, to be unusually large in comparison with the rest of the sample: 3 mm. greater in length of tarsus, 5 mm. in length of bill and 1 mm. in depth of bill. Morrison (1939) had already remarked that nine specimens of *P. chilensis* from Junin averaged longer in the wing than seven from Uruquay and Argentina, but he found